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(c) The question of releasing prisoner No. 713 from the jail is now under consideration. The Government are not contemplating at present the release of State prisoners who were concerned in forcible conversions.

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know for what offence the last prisoner has been kept in jail ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I cannot reply off-hand."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" How long have they been in jail ? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" Same answer."

Co-operative Societies.

Loans to co-operative societies for effecting flood relief.

* 17 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government, in their Order of 15th October last year regarding silted lands in the flood-affected areas, declared that the Co-operative department would help the ryots in all manner possible ;

(b) whether the loans to co-operative societies are to be given only through the Collectors of the districts and if so, the reasons for this policy ; and

(c) why no budget provision has been made in this year's budget for loans to co-operative societies for the purpose of land reclamation ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes. As loans under the Land Improvements Loans Act are administered by Collectors and as the necessary funds are met from the allotment under this head, loans to co-operative societies are disbursed through Collectors.

(c) Loans to co-operative societies for reclamation of silted lands will be met from the provision made in the budget estimate for 1925–26 under ' Loans and Advances by Provincial Government—(e) Advances to Cultivators—(i) Loans under the Land Improvements Loans Act '.

Depressed Classes.

The nature of the assignment of land to ex-war service men and Adi-Dravidas.

* 18 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue and the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that the major portions of the lands assigned to ex-war service men and Adi-Dravidas are practically cultivated on lease or enjoyed by the higher caste ryots while the patta alone stands in the name of the depressed classes and ex-war service darkhastdar ; and

(b) if the answer to clause (a) is in the negative, what steps the Government will take for making inquiries on the above matter in the districts of Tanjore, South Arcot and Trichinopoly and for positively discouraging such sort of irregular benami darkhast transactions ?